

Annual Report
New York Quarterly Meeting
Ministry and Counsel Committee
July 15, 2017

Like most Quarterly committees, Ministry and Counsel convenes infrequently and to do business. We have recognized that this model—meeting only to do business—does not lend itself to being able to find unity in the Spirit. We need to know one another as Friends and neighbors; we need to see how Spirit is at work in the lives of our members in order to recognize how Spirit works in our deliberations. Though attempts to have fellowship outside the days we do our committee's work have fallen through due to life circumstances of our committee's members, we have had success by beginning and ending our committees with a period of Open Worship and by including a time of check-in and fellowship as part of our committee's practice when we meet for business. Bearing witness to the struggles and joys in our fellow members' lives, as done by early Friends, has allowed us to trust one another better and to be present to how Spirit is at work within our committee in a deeper way. We have found that our work goes easier when we are aware of how Friends are individually Grounded.

Since our last report, our committee has met eight times, or twice per quarter. The increase in our meetings has taken place as we have endeavored to address issues in a more timely manner than we have in past years. We encourage Friends to first seek spiritual support from their Monthly Meetings. We remind Friends that while we are here to support the spiritual life of the Quarter, it is beyond our capacity to address concerns quickly or briefly. As Friends, we seek God's will rather than easy solutions.

We have given spiritual support to individuals and committees seeking to be united with others in the Spirit. This has included, since the spring of 2016, sponsoring a Healing Circle program at the request of NYQM's Nominating Committee. We have also met with individual Friends to address concerns or needs for clearness.

We find it encouraging to witness a greater calm and unity in the way members of NYQM relate to one another. We were heartened to hear in 15th Street's State of the Meeting Report how the Meeting is struggling together to find unity with one another and the Spirit. We are further heartened to hear of a new sense of life beginning to spring up at Staten Island Executive Meeting.

A highlight of our year was our annual Clerks' Dinner, held on March 16 at 110 Schermerhorn, for the clerks of the Monthly Meetings as well as the clerks of the Quarterly Meeting's committees. This year, the conversation over dinner included both a discussion about best clerking practices and a rousing bit of personal storytelling. We are grateful to see Friends sharing both their souls and their skills.

The Committee has not solely sponsored any other activities this year, but has accepted several invitations to financially or spiritually cosponsor activities to benefit members of the Quarter. These have included New York Yearly Meeting's Parent Meet-ups, the Healing Circle, and a Jazz Concert to raise funds for Disability Pride. We also approved funds for a potential speaker regarding the conflict at Standing Rock.

In FY2016, our committee spent \$8887.03 of our \$5000 budget. We requested the same amount for FY2017, but due to the inclusion of Pastor reimbursement for Manhattan Meeting in our budget, have an actual budget of \$15,000. M&C is not charged with oversight of the ministry of Manhattan Meeting's Pastor, nor are we being asked to approve his reimbursements. As a matter of responsible stewardship, we request a process to transfer that largest line item to the oversight of Manhattan Meeting or Audit and Budget directly. From the funds designated to committee activities, M&C has thus far spent \$3465 of \$5000 in FY2017.

Finally, this year has seen a great deal of turnover on our committee. We bid a fond farewell to Charlotte Ehrman, David Fletcher, and Andy von Salis as they concluded (or are concluding) their service to this committee. Charlotte, David, and Andy have provided a great deal of heart, knowledge, and ministry to this committee. We look forward to meeting and joining in worship with whomever the Spirit and the Quarterly Meeting send to us next.

In Friendship,

Beth Kelly, clerk
Steven Monroe Smith, recording clerk
David Britton
Julie Finch
Daniel Truman
Andy von Salis (ex-officio)
Robert Wilber